SECRET
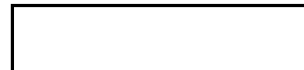
25X1

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable Roswell L. Gilpatric
The Deputy Secretary of Defense

SUBJECT: Request for Additional U-2 Aircraft

1. I have recently completed an extensive review of the Central Intelligence Agency's present capability, utilizing U-2 aircraft, to respond in a timely manner in support of National Intelligence collection requirements on a world-wide basis. As a result, I have concluded that this capability has now deteriorated to a level that must be considered inadequate in the face of current and anticipated future requirements for covert reconnaissance by this Agency.

2. My conclusion has been reached after taking into account the transfer and assignment of two USAF-possessed U-2 aircraft to CIA in June of 1963 in response to your direction, and the total offset of this transfer in November 1963, occasioned by the loss of a U-2 over China early in the month and the succeeding loss on November 20th of an Agency U-2 on loan to SAC. Coincident with these losses, which reduced the immediately available inventory of Agency U-2s even below that of last June, because of conversion time, resumption of reconnaissance flights over the China Mainland and the transfer of a second U-2 [   ] was approved in principal by the Special Group on 14 November and approved for implementation by that body on 19 December 1963. Movement of this second aircraft [   ] began on 27 December 1963.

25X1

25X1

3. Accordingly I would appreciate it if you would make the necessary arrangement for the early transfer of a U-2 aircraft from USAF to the

SECRET

25X1

SECRET

25X1

Page 2

CIA with the suggested proviso that the possible need for a second such transfer be examined again in early April 1964, barring some unforeseen adverse development before that time.

/s/

John A. McCone
Director

CONCUR:

(s/
_____
Deputy Director (Science and Technology)

DAD/OSA/JACunningham/mcm (revised)

(s/
_____
        DAD/OSA   31 Dec 63

Distribution:
    #1 & #2 – Addressee
        #3 – DCI
        #4 – ER
    #5 & #6 – DD/S&T
        #7 – AD/OSA
    #8 & #9 – DAD/OSA
        #10 – RB/OSA

SECRET